

REMARKS

In the final office action claims 1 - 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,363,016 (to Unger). Claims 7 - 15 were allowed, and claim 5 was indicated as being allowable if re-written in independent form.

Claim 1 is amended herein to include the limitations of claim 5, and claim 5 is canceled.

New independent claim 16 is added herein, as well as new dependent claims 17 - 21, which depend from claim 16. New independent claim 16 is similar in scope to claim 1 as amended but does not specifically recite a bimetallic element. In particular, claim 16 includes a dielectric separator element that is urged between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions when said second electrically conductive contact portion is moved away from the first electrically conductive contact portion in the event of excess current being passed between the first and second electrically conductive contact portions. For the reasons stated in the final office action for the reasons for allowability of claims 5 and 10, new claim 16 is also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Each of claims 1 - 4 and 6 - 21, therefore, is in condition for allowance. Favorable action consistent with the above is respectfully requested. The examiner is respectfully requested to contact the applicant's undersigned representative in the event that any of the above claims are not considered to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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